

Teacher Preparation in California
Standards of Quality and Effectiveness
Common Standards

**Handbook for Teacher Educators
and Accreditation Team Members**

Committee on Accreditation
Commission on Teacher Credentialing
State of California

June 1998
(Revised May 2002)

Common Standards

(The Common Standards deal with aspects of program quality that are the same for all credential programs. The institution responds to each Common Standard by providing pertinent information, including information about individual programs. For each Common Standard, questions are included which will assist team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. The questions can also be used by institutions as they reflect upon the quality of their programs and for assistance in the preparation proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation. Included with the Common Standards are particular common standards issues which must be addressed for internship programs. Those are found in italics. Common standards issues which must be addressed for Multiple and Single Subject Emphasis programs follow each Common Standard.)

Commission on Teacher Credentialing

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Common Standards

Standard 1

Education Leadership

The institution (faculty, dean/director and institutional administration) articulates and supports a vision for the preparation of professional educators. All professional preparation programs are organized, governed, and coordinated with the active involvement of credential program faculty. Institutional leadership fosters cohesiveness in management; delegates responsibility and authority appropriately; resolves each professional preparation program's administrative needs as promptly as feasible; and represents the interests of each program in the institution, the education profession, and the school community.

Questions to Consider

The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.

- How clear is the leadership's vision for the preparation of educators? How well does this vision shape the design and delivery of each credential program? What evidence is there that the leadership of the institution supports the goals and purposes of each program?
- How well does the leadership of the institution develop a unified sense of teamwork among the administrators of sub-units, including credential programs?
- How clear are the lines of authority and responsibility for the management of each credential program? In what manner are program coordinators involved in appropriate decision-making bodies within the institution?
- How prompt is the leadership of the institution in addressing and resolving problems in credential programs that are amenable to administrative solutions?
- How frequently and openly does the institutional leadership confer with the faculties who teach credential candidates and supervise their field experiences?
- To what extent is institutional leadership seen as an advocate for the credential programs within the institution, the education profession as a whole, and the local school community?

Internship Programs

For an internship program: Each participating school district works with the institution to give appropriate attention to the effective operation of the program. Because interns function as employees of the school district, it is important that the school district ensure that the program is operating in a manner to further the educational goals of the district. The employing school district supports the goals and purposes of the program and assures the college or university that the appropriate support for the intern is available in the district.

Standard 2

Resources

Sufficient resources are consistently allocated for the effective operation of each credential preparation program, to enable it to be effective in coordination, admission, advising, curriculum, instruction, and field experiences. Library and media resources, computer facilities, and support personnel, among others, are adequate.

Questions to Consider

The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.

- How adequate are personnel resources (including sufficient numbers of full and part-time positions for instructional faculty, field supervisors and support personnel) to staff each credential program and maintain its effectiveness?
- How well does the institution provide a critical mass of faculty resources to provide breadth and depth of expertise to support an effective program of instruction and supervised field experience in each credential area? Do credential candidates have sufficient opportunity for contact with faculty members?
- To what extent do faculty, staff, and candidates have access to appropriate buildings, classrooms, offices, study areas, furniture, equipment, library services, computers, media, and instructional materials? Are these resources sufficient and adequate?
- To what extent do faculty, staff, and candidates have equitable and appropriate access to computer-based technology, information and network resources for teaching and learning?
- To what extent do faculty, staff, and candidates have adequate technical support services for maintenance and training to support instructional goals?

Internship Programs

For an internship program: Each participating school district works with the institution to provide sufficient resources to fulfill the needs of the program. Because interns function as employees of the school district, it is important that the school district provide sufficient resources, in addition to intern salaries, to assure the success of the program. The employing school district provides access to the resources to allow the intern to perform successfully in his or her position.

Standard 3

Faculty

Qualified persons are hired and assigned to teach all courses and supervise all field experiences in each credential preparation program. Faculty reflect and are knowledgeable about cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity. The institution provides support for faculty development, and recognizes and rewards outstanding teaching. The institution regularly evaluates the performance of course instructors and field supervisors, and retains in credential programs only those individuals who are consistently effective.

Questions to Consider

The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.

- How effectively does the institution ensure that each credential program course and field experience is assigned to a faculty member who has an appropriate background of advanced study and professional experience that are directly related to his/her assignment(s) in the program?
- How does the institution develop and utilize recruitment policies and goals to ensure the equitable hiring of faculty in credential preparation programs?
- How does the institution ensure that all faculty members and field supervisors have current knowledge of schools and classrooms that reflect the cultural diversity of society?
- How well does the institution follow equitable procedures for the identification of effective and ineffective course instructors and field supervisors?
- What procedures are in place to remove ineffective course instructors and field supervisors from their assignments in credential preparation programs? How consistently are the procedures applied?
- How does the institution recognize excellence as a teacher, supervisor, and/or advisor in appointing, promoting and recognizing faculty members?
- How does the institution ensure that all faculty members (full time and part time) have access to adequate resources for their professional development, including resources to support research, curriculum study and program development?

Standard 4

Evaluation

The institution regularly involves program participants, graduates, and local practitioners in a comprehensive evaluation of the quality of courses and field experiences, which leads to substantive improvements in each credential preparation program, as needed. Meaningful opportunities are provided for professional practitioners and diverse community members to become involved in program design, development and evaluation activities.

Questions to Consider

The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.

- To what extent is the evaluation system based upon criteria that are related to the design, rationale, goals and objectives of each program, and to the competence and performance criteria that are used to assess candidates in the programs?
- How does the institution collect information about each program's strengths, weaknesses and needed improvements from all participants in the program, including course instructors, university and district supervisors, the employers of recent graduates, and each cohort of candidates during their enrollment and following their program completion? How comprehensively and frequently is information compiled?
- In what manner is evaluation information used to make qualitative decisions about credential preparation programs?
- As improvements in programs are considered, to what degree are they based on the results of program evaluation, the implications of new knowledge about teaching and schooling as it relates to each credential area, and the identified needs of schools and districts in the local service region?
- In what ways are meaningful and substantive opportunities provided for professional practitioners in multiple credential areas and persons who represent the diversity of the community to be involved in program evaluation and development activities?

Internship Programs

For an internship program: The system of program evaluation and development includes representatives of the participating district(s), and representatives of persons who hold the affected credential from the participating district(s). Because interns perform the duties of fully certificated holders of the credential, it is important that representatives of these certificated employees, along with district representatives, participate fully in the development and evaluation of the internship program. The ongoing evaluation and development system includes substantive involvement from the institution, participating school districts, and representatives (the certificated exclusive representatives, if applicable) of holders of the affected credential.

Standard 5

Admission

In each professional preparation program, candidates are admitted on the basis of well-defined admission criteria and procedures (including all Commission-adopted admission requirements) that utilize multiple measures. The admission of students from a diverse population is encouraged. The institution determines that candidates meet high academic standards, as evidenced by appropriate measures of academic achievement, and demonstrate strong potential for professional success in schools, as evidenced by appropriate measures of personal characteristics and prior experience.

Commission-Adopted Credential Program Admission Requirements

Multiple and Single Subject Credential Programs - As a group, candidates admitted into the program each year have attained the median or higher in an appropriate comparison population on one or more indicators of academic achievement selected by the institution. Each individual has personal qualities and preprofessional experiences that suggest a strong potential for professional success and effectiveness as a teacher.

- For *BCLAD* Emphasis Programs, *BCLAD* candidates must be assessed for language eligibility for entry into the program.
- For Middle Level Emphasis Programs, candidates must have academic preparation in two or more subjects at a level equivalent to a supplementary authorization that may be joined in a core curriculum.

All Internship Programs - *Each internship candidate has had prior experiences and personal qualifications to enable candidates to perform at the level of responsibility required of an intern. Because interns perform the duties of fully certificated holders of the credential prior to the completion of a preparation program, it is important that they have had prior experiences which would adequately prepare them for the actual responsibilities of the position. When applicant's qualifications are evaluated, the program's admission criteria shall consider relevant experience and background to account for the increased responsibilities of interns.*

General Advanced Credential Program Admission Requirements - As a group, candidates admitted into the program each year have attained a level of academic qualifications, using one or more indicators, equivalent to or higher than candidates admitted to other post-baccalaureate programs offered by the institution. Each individual has personal qualities and prior experiences that suggest a strong potential for professional success and effectiveness in the specialist or service area.

Library Media Teacher Credential Program Admission Requirements - Candidates admitted into the program have met requirements that are comparable to those of other

advanced programs at the institution and have demonstrated professional qualities and experiences that indicate a strong potential for professional success and effectiveness as a library media teacher.

Health Services/School Nurse Credential Programs Admission Requirements - As a group, candidates admitted into the program each year have attained a level of academic qualifications, using one or more indicators, equivalent or higher than candidates admitted to other post-baccalaureate programs offered by the institution. Each admitted candidate holds valid licensure as a registered nurse in California and the appropriate academic degree as determined by the institution. Each individual has personal attributes and professional skills that suggest a strong potential for professional success and effectiveness as a school nurse.

Preliminary Administrative Services Credential Programs - As a group, candidates admitted into the program each year have attained a level of academic qualifications, using one or more indicators, equivalent to or higher than candidates admitted to other post-baccalaureate programs offered by the institution. Each individual has a record of professional accomplishment demonstrating leadership potential, and exhibits consistent adherence to moral and ethical standards of behavior.

Professional Administrative Services Credential Programs - Candidates are admitted into the program in a timely way, once it has been determined that they have successfully completed academic programs for the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential that have been approved by the Committee on Accreditation, or have completed the equivalent at an out-of-state institution, and are employed by a local educational agency in an administrative position.

Questions to Consider

The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.

- To what extent are the admission criteria and procedures clearly described and available to prospective candidates for credentials?
- What are the multiple measures used by the institution to define the academic achievement and professional potential of credential candidates?
- For the basic teaching credential programs, does the institution define an appropriate comparison group? Does each admitted candidate have an undergraduate GPA that is above the median GPA for the comparison group?

- For advanced credential programs, does each admitted candidate meet the institutional standards for graduate study?
- How does the institution determine and evaluate each applicant's personal qualities and preprofessional qualifications, (including entry level computer skills) for example, personal interviews with candidates, written evaluation of candidates' prior experiences with children and youth, and prior leadership activities?
- What alternative criteria and procedures are used to encourage admission of candidates from underrepresented groups?
- To what extent do the institution's recruitment and admissions policies and practices reflect a commitment to achieve a balanced representation of the population by gender, race, ethnicity and disability and to encourage admission of candidates from the institution's service area?
- How do the admissions criteria consider the candidates' sensitivity to (and interest in) the needs of children and youth, with special consideration for sensitivity to those from diverse ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds?

Standard 6

Advice and Assistance

Qualified members of the institution's staff are assigned and available to advise candidates about their academic, professional and personal development, as the need arises, and to assist in their professional placement. Adequate information is readily available to guide each candidate's attainment of all program and credential requirements. The institution assists candidates who need special assistance, and retains in each program only those candidates who are suited for entry or advancement in the education profession.

Questions to Consider

The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.

- How does the institution ensure that student services, including academic advisement, professional assessment, personal counseling and career placement services are provided by qualified individuals who are assigned those responsibilities?
- How are the individuals who provide advice and assistance selected, trained and informed of changing requirements?
- Are student services provided equitably and made available when the candidates need them?
- In what manner does the institution provide (a) advice regarding the realities and opportunities for entry into different areas of professional service and (b) assistance for candidates in the pursuit of employment upon completion of their programs?
- What special opportunities are provided for candidates who need special assistance? How are candidates provided with information about the availability of special assistance?
- How does the institution review each candidate's competence at designated checkpoints, inform the candidates of their status, provide opportunities for corrective learning, and only then dismiss those who are determined to be unsuited for professional service?
- How are the requirements for each credential program and information about available services made accessible to prospective and current candidates?

- How well does the institution ensure that each candidate is informed in writing early in his/her program about the program's prerequisites, coursework requirements, course scheduling within the program sequence, field experience requirements, and the specific deadlines for making satisfactory progress in the program? How are candidates informed about the legal requirements for state certification? How are they also informed about the individuals who are available to provide services to them?
- How are candidates informed about the multiple pathways available for obtaining certification.
- How are candidates informed of credential requirements changed as a result of new statutes and regulations?
- How are candidates informed of the requirements to renew the credential and/or complete the advanced level?
- In what manner is each candidate informed about institutional grievance and appeal procedures?

Internship Programs

For an internship program: Faculty from the institution develop an individual plan for the mentoring support and professional development of each intern while in the program. Because interns perform the duties of fully certificated holders of the credential, it is important that they have support in the performance of their tasks and the planning for their professional development. This support should be similar to that which is provided for new teachers hired by the district. Specifically, they should have an individual plan for professional development and the support of one or more mentor teachers. The individual plan for support and professional development is developed for each intern in consultation with the intern and the employing school district.. The individual plan includes the provision for mentoring experiences.

Standard 7

School Collaboration

For each credential preparation program, the institution collaborates with local school personnel in selecting suitable school sites and effective clinical personnel for guiding candidates through a planned sequence of fieldwork/clinical experiences that is based on a well developed rationale.

Questions to Consider

The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.

- For each credential preparation program, to what extent does an effective and ongoing system of communication and collaboration exist between the institution and local districts and school sites where candidates are placed for their field experiences?
- To what extent does the institution, in consultation with local administrators and teachers, have clear, explicit criteria for the selection of schools and district field experience supervisors? How effectively does the institution seek to place candidates in self-renewing schools in which the curriculum and the staff develop continually?
- To what extent is there a description of the fieldwork/clinical experience options that are available and how those options correspond to the organizational structure and academic requirements of each credential program?
- How does the institution ensure that each credential candidate's field/clinical experiences are planned collaboratively, involving the candidate, school district personnel and institutional personnel?
- To what extent does the institution provide opportunities for candidates to be placed in schools where computer-based technology is used to support teaching and learning?
- How thoroughly does the institution periodically review the suitability and quality of all field placement sites?
- To what extent does the institution review each candidate's fieldwork/clinical placement to ensure that candidates are assigned to appropriate sites supervisors?
- How well developed is the institution's plan and rationale for the sequence of field experiences in each credential program?

Internship Programs

For an internship program: The very nature of an internship program requires collaboration at every stage of the program. This includes the selection of district supervisors of interns, placement of interns in teaching positions and shaping and evaluation of the internship assignments.

Standard 8

District Field Supervisors

Each district-employed field experience supervisor is carefully selected, trained in supervision, oriented to the supervisory role, and certified and experienced in either teaching the subject(s) of the class or performing the services authorized by the credential. District supervisors and supervisory activities are appropriately evaluated, recognized and rewarded by the institution.

Questions to Consider

The following questions are designed to assist accreditation team members during training and continuing accreditation reviews. They may also assist institutions in preparing proposals for initial accreditation of programs and self-study reports for continuing accreditation.

- How does the institution ensure that each candidate's field experiences are supervised by district personnel who have state certification, academic preparation and successful experience in the credential area? How do they determine that they have remained current with changes in the profession and the student population?
- How thoroughly and promptly does the institution provide for the effective role-orientation and supervisory training of each district field experience supervisor.
- To what extent does each district field experience supervisor demonstrate skills in observation and coaching techniques and in ways of successfully fostering learning in adults?
- How are fieldwork/clinical experiences evaluated collaboratively, involving the candidate, school district personnel and institutional personnel?
- To what extent does the institution recognize and reward district field experience supervisors for their services, through letters of recognition or incentives, such as tuition credits, conference attendance allowances, or instructional materials?

Internship Programs

Each intern receives support from one or more certificated person(s) who are assigned at the same school, at least one of whom is experienced in the curricular area(s) of the intern's assignment. Each person who supports one or more interns is trained in support techniques, oriented to the support role and appropriately evaluated, recognized and rewarded by the institution and/or the district. Support personnel are particularly important because interns do not have the benefit of the assistance of a cooperating (supervisory) teacher as a student teacher would have.